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USSR - East Germany: The Soviets last week reassured Ulbricht of their support.

The communiqué ending the visit of the high-level East German party delegation hit especially hard at Bonn. It again gave Moscow's public support to Pankow's "protective measures" against alleged West German designs on West Berlin. It claimed that the travel bans on certain West German citizens transiting East Germany were fully in accord with Pankow's rights and obligations under existing international agreements.

The use of the word "obligations," however, may have been meant as a signal to Bonn and the Allies that Moscow intends to retain control over East German actions. Soviet officials have privately indicated to Allied representatives that Moscow does not wish a crisis to develop. The "emergency legislation" recently passed in Bonn drew only a propaganda broadside from the USSR, despite fears in some quarters that it would bring a more serious reaction.

The communiqué made only an indirect reference to Czechoslovakia. Nevertheless, its warning to the socialist countries to be vigilant and to close ranks against "imperialist machinations" was obviously made with Prague uppermost in mind. Ulbricht, the most vociferous critic of the recent trend in Czechoslovakia, probably would have preferred something more explicit, but the Soviets have been restraining their comments on the subject since Premier Kosygin's visit.

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